THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission as well as feedback received from other stakeholders the Government have formulated a Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A—excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various departments/ stakeholders seeking their comments (including inclusion of local taxes in maximum retail price of drugs). Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

Starvation deaths of children in Maharashtra

1215. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports of death of children due to hunger and mal-nutrition, during April to July, 2005 from Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, the number of such deaths from different districts of Maharashtra and other States; and

(c) the details of Central Aid, if any, sought and given to Government of Maharashtra and other States to avert such mal-nutrition deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Women and Child Development has carried out an investigation in Nagpur and Amravati districts of Maharashtra in the last week of August 2005 to verify the reports of death of children due to hunger and malnutrition and to assess the implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. The figure of child deaths in the Amravati Division, comprising

5 districts and Nagpur division comprising 6 districts as given in the report are as follows:—

"Child Deaths in Amravati Division in 2005-06 (upto July 05)

District	Cumulative deaths in 0-6 years children		
	0-1 years	1-6 years	Total
Amravati	298	110	408
Akola	141	29	170
Yavatmal	416	97	513
Buldana	188	53	240
Washim	90	12	102
Total	1133	300	1433

Child Deaths in Nagpur Division in 2005-06 (upto July 05)

District	Cumulative deaths in 0-6 years children		
	0-1 years	1-6 years	Total
Chandarpur	294	57	351
Gadchiroli	193	62	255
Gondia	154	33	187
Nagpur	283	52	335
Bhandra	278	55	333
Wardha	121	9	130
Total	1323	268	1591

In the reports given in newspapers, it appears that it has been presumed that all child deaths are due to malnutrition alone, which is not correct. In the data made available, the actual number of deaths due to mal-nutrition are not given."

The investigations concluded that some of the newspaper reports are exaggerated and the child mortality and the infant mortality rates in the

region are better than the national average (National Average-IMR-60, Maharashtra Average-IMR-42). Moreover, malnutrition is a multifacted problem and is not a direct cause of death, but it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections.

No starvation death has been reported by any State Government/ Union Territory during April to July, 2005.

(c) Ministry of Women & Child Development is administering a Centrally-sponsored Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is implemented through State Governments. ICDS provides a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition & health education. ICDS has been extended to cover 456 additional projects and 1.88 lakh additional Anganwadi centres. Out of this for Maharashtra, 44 additional projects and 12864 Anganwadi centres have been sanctioned. A Statement showing State-wise position of funds released under ICDS Scheme (General) during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is annexed (*See* below).

For ensuring food security for all, the Central Government implements Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and many food based welfare schemes in the States/UTs. A quantity of 716.98 lakh tonnes and 537.23 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated to States/UTs including Maharashtra during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto December, 2005) respectively under TPDS. Foodgrains are also provided to 2.5 crore poorest of the poor households under Antyoyada Anna Yojana (AAY) at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice. During the year 2004-05 & 2005-06 (up to December), a quantity of 139.31 lakh tonnes and 93.19 lakh tonnes respectively has been allocated to States/UTs under various welfare schemes, *e.g.*, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, SC/ST/OBC Hostels/Welfare Institutions. Annapurna Yojana, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls, Special Component of SGRY and National Food for Work Programme, etc.

Statement

State-wise position of funds released under ICDS Scheme (General)

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	2003-04 Funds released	2004-05 Funds release	2005-06 Funds released (upto 28.11.2005)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	8364.10	7277.34	10242.69
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1552.73	1697.61	1518.91
3	Assam	4388.19	15799.37	8727.14
4	Bihar	1754.59	9408.47	4000.00
5	Chhattisgarh	3157.19	3275.49	3169.35
6	Delhi	1159.21	1118.36	1222.57
7	Goa	418.72	286.33	373.53
8	Gujarat	9112.10	12405.58	9917.54
9	Haryana	4019.04	4674.34	4891.42
10	Himachal Pradesh	1588.66	2617.26	2819.88
11	Jammu and Kashmir	2074.09	3457.78	1989.19
12	Jharkhand	1881.25	3824.62	4288.33
13	Karnataka	10622.14	11023.50	12139.46
14	Kerala	5527.08	5546.74	2856.56
15	Madhya Pradesh	7457.79	6263.10	7649.00
16	Maharashtra	13824.43	11930.96	14332.50
17	Manipur	1413.99	2054.55	1328.05
18	Meghalaya	876.52	1450.81	1034.88
19	Mizoram	832.80	781.68	713.49
20	Nagaland	1486.21	1358.50	1560.89

1	2	3	4	5
21	Orissa	10387.11	9968.40	10216.69
22	Punjab	4432.80	3904.27	5591.61
23	Rajasthan	8042.75	7849.67	6320.72
24	Sikkim	173.69	332.88	191.38
25	Tamil Nadu	8453.73	12303.16	15212.94
26	Tripura	1797.81	1414.45	1277.54
27	Uttaranchal	1282.83	1723.77	2861.67
28	Uttar Pradesh	14303.96	15100.87	29780.93
29	West Bengal	14820.34	12633.07	19391.00
30	A&N Islands	189.70	185.39	197.11
31	Chandigarh	140.11	155.26	107.70
32	D&N Haveli	48.50	48.27	35.00
33	Daman & Diu	41.41	38.98	37.88
34	Lakshadweep	38.58	25.15	32.67
35	Pondicherry	203.36	218.89	233.68
	ALL INDIA	145867.51	172154.87	186263.91

Sugar production

†1216. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the data regarding the production and consumption of sugar in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether unauthorized exports of sugar are made from India to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Srilanka, etc. on a large scale; and

(c) if so, the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The production and consumption of cane sugar during the last three years were as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.